Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A <u>laminated material membrane casted material</u> <u>made</u> of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting material in which the segregating membrane is <u>laminated_casted</u> on the segregating membrane supporting material, the <u>membrane casted material</u> comprising:

a segregating membrane including at least a choice one member selected from the group consisting of polysulfone-based, polyvinylidene fluoride-based, polyamide-based, polyimide-based, or and polyacrylonitrile-based high polymer materials, and

a segregating membrane supporting material wherein, in which fibers are assembled in three-dimensions to form non-woven fabric, the non-woven fabric is processed by thermo-compression to join together fibers, which make up the non-woven fabric in sheet form, making the segregating membrane supporting material, and the non-woven fabric includes at least 10 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers having a fiber length of 1mm-25mm and is processed by thermo-compression making a segregating membrane supporting material with overall bulk density 40% to 75% of the density of the fibers which make up the non-woven fabric, and

wherein polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers included in the non-woven fabric of the segregating membrane supporting material are <u>selected to be</u> dissoluble in amide-based solvents or in sulfoxide-based solvents as a mutual solvent for forming the segregating membrane <u>to bind the segregating membrane and segregating membrane supporting material</u>.

- 2. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 1 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 10 weight % to 100 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 3. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 1

wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 20 weight % to 70 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.

- 4. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 1 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 30 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 5. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 1 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 40 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 6. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 1 wherein size of polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fiber included in non-woven fabric of the segregating membrane supporting material is diameter of 3.5 to 49.6 μm.
- 7. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 1 wherein permeability of the segregating membrane supporting material is 0.5 cm³/cm²/sec to 10 cm³/cm²/sec.
- 8. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 1 wherein non-woven fabric of the segregating membrane supporting material includes polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers and binder fibers.

- 9. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 8 wherein the binder fibers of the segregating membrane supporting material include a ehoice membrane selected from the group consisting of polyester fibers, polyolefin fibers, nylon fibers, aramide fibers, or and polyphenylene sulfide fibers.
- 10. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 8 wherein the binder fibers of the segregating membrane supporting material are low melting point polyester fibers.
- 11. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 8 wherein the binder fibers of the segregating membrane supporting material are unextended polyester fibers.
- 12. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 8 wherein the non-woven fabric of the segregating membrane supporting material includes 20 weight % to 90 weight % binder fibers.
- 13. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 1 wherein thickness of the segregating membrane supporting material made from thermocompressed non-woven fabric is 50 μ m to 150 μ m.
- 14. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material in which a segregating membrane is laminated on a segregating membrane supporting material wherein fibers are assembled in three-dimensions to form non-woven fabric, and non-woven fabric is processed by thermo-compression to join together fibers, which make up

the non-woven fabric in sheet form, making the segregating membrane supporting material,

the step comprising of:

processing by thermo-compression of the non-woven fabric including at least 10 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers having a fiber length of 1mm-25mm to make a segregating membrane supporting material with overall bulk density 40% to 75% of the density of the fibers which make up the non-woven fabric,

manufacturing the segregating membrane supporting material wherein polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers included in the non-woven fabric are dissoluble in amide-based solvents or in sulfoxide-based solvents as a mutual solvent for forming the segregating membrane, and

laminating the segregating membrane supporting material with the segregating membrane including at least a choice of polysulfone based, polyvinylidene fluoride-based, polyamide-based, polyimide-based, or polyacrylonitrile-based high polymer materials.

- 15. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 14 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 10 weight % to 100 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 16. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 14 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 20 weight % to 70 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 17. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 14 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 30 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.

- 18. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 14 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 40 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 19. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 14 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is formed by using polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers of size of diameter of 3.5 to 49.6 μm.
- 20. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 14 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric which is thermo-compressed to give a permeability of 0.5 cm³/cm²/sec to $10 \text{ cm}^3/\text{cm}^2/\text{sec}$.
- 21. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 14 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made by using non-woven fabric including polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers and binder fibers.
- 22. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 21 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made by using a choice of polyester fibers, polyolefin fibers, nylon fibers, aramide fibers, or polyphenylene sulfide fibers as binder fibers.
- 23. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 21 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made by using low melting point polyester fibers as binder fibers.
- 24. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 21 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made by using unextended polyester fibers as binder fibers.

- 25. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 21 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material includes 20 weight % to 90 weight % binder fibers.
- 26. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 14 wherein thickness of the segregating membrane supporting material made from thermo-compressed non-woven fabric is 50 μm to 150 μm.
- 27. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 14 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric which is transported through and sandwiched between two rollers for thermo-compression processing.
- 28. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 27 wherein one of the two rollers for thermo-compression processing is a heating roller to make the segregating membrane supporting material.
- 29. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 27 wherein thermo-compression processing is by two heating rollers to make the segregating membrane supporting material.
- 30. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 27 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric which is thermo-compressed by heating roller with a surface temperature of 200°C to 250°C.
- 31. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 27 wherein non-woven fabric is transported via heating roller at a speed of 20 m/min to 100 m/min.

32. (Currently amended) A <u>laminated material membrane casted material</u> <u>made</u> of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting material in which <u>a-the</u> segregating membrane is <u>laminated on a-casted on the</u> segregating membrane supporting material, the <u>membrane casted material</u> comprising:

a segregating membrane including at least a choice one member selected from the group consisting of polysulfone-based, polyvinylidene fluoride-based, polyamide-based, polyimide-based, or and polyacrylonitrile-based high polymer materials, and

a segregating membrane supporting material wherein, in which fibers are assembled in three-dimensions to form non-woven fabric, the non-woven fabric is processed by thermo-compression to join together fibers, which make up the non-woven fabric in sheet form, making the segregating membrane supporting material, and the non-woven fabric includes at least 10 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers and low melting point polyester binder fibers and is processed by thermo-compression making a segregating membrane supporting material with overall bulk density 40% to 75% of the density of the fibers which make up the non-woven fabric, and

wherein polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers included in the non-woven fabric of the segregating membrane supporting material are <u>selected to be</u> dissoluble in amide-based solvents or in sulfoxide-based solvents as a mutual solvent for forming the segregating membrane <u>to bind the segregating membrane and segregating membrane supporting material</u>.

- 33. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 32 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 10 weight % to 100 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 34. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 32 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric,

including 20 weight % to 70 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.

- 35. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 32 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 30 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 36. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 32 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 40 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 37. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 32 wherein size of polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fiber included in non-woven fabric of the segregating membrane supporting material is diameter of 3.5 to 49.6 µm.
- 38. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 32 wherein length of polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fiber included in non-woven fabric of the segregating membrane supporting material is 1mm to 25mm.
- 39. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 32 wherein permeability of the segregating membrane supporting material is 0.5 cm³/cm²/sec to 10 cm³/cm²/sec.

- 40. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 32 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material includes 20 weight % to 90 weight % binder fibers.
- 41. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 32 wherein thickness of the segregating membrane supporting material made from thermocompressed non-woven fabric is 50 μ m to 150 μ m.
- 42. (Currently amended) A <u>laminated material membrane casted material</u> <u>made</u> of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting material in which the segregating membrane is <u>laminated casted</u> on the segregating membrane supporting material, the <u>membrane casted material</u> comprising:

a segregating membrane including at least a choice one member selected from the group consisting of polysulfone-based, polyvinylidene fluoride-based, polyamide-based, polyimide-based, or and polyacrylonitrile-based high polymer materials, and

a segregating membrane supporting material wherein, in which fibers are assembled in three-dimensions to form non-woven fabric, the non-woven fabric is processed by thermo-compression to join together fibers, which make up the non-woven fabric in sheet form, making the segregating membrane supporting material, and the non-woven fabric including includes at least 10 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers and un-extended polyester binder fibers and is processed by thermo-compression making a segregating membrane supporting material with overall bulk density 40% to 75% of the density of the fibers which make up the non-woven fabric, and

wherein polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers included in the non-woven fabric of the segregating membrane supporting material are selected to be dissoluble in amide-based solvents or in sulfoxide-based solvents as a mutual solvent for forming the segregating membrane to bind the segregating membrane and segregating membrane supporting material.

- 43. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 42 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 10 weight % to 100 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 44. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 42 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 20 weight % to 70 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 45. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 42 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 30 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 46. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 42 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 40 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 47. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 42 wherein size of polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fiber of the segregating membrane supporting material is diameter of 3.5 to 49.6 μm.
- 48. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 42

wherein length of polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fiber of the segregating membrane supporting material is 1mm to 25mm.

- 49. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 42 wherein permeability of the segregating membrane supporting material is 0.5 cm³/cm²/sec to 10 cm³/cm²/sec.
- 50. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 42 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material includes 20 weight % to 90 weight % binder fibers.
- 51. (Currently amended) A laminated material of a segregating membrane and a segregating membrane supporting membrane casted material as recited in claim 42 wherein thickness of the segregating membrane supporting material made from thermocompressed non-woven fabric is 50 µm to 150 µm.
- 52. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material in which a segregating membrane is laminated on a segregating membrane supporting material wherein fibers are assembled in three-dimensions to form non-woven fabric, and non-woven fabric is processed by thermo-compression to join together fibers, which make up the non-woven fabric in sheet form, making the segregating membrane supporting material,

the step comprising of:

processing by thermo-compression of the non-woven fabric including at least 10 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers and low melting point polyester binder fibers to make a segregating membrane supporting material with overall bulk density 40% to 75% of the density of the fibers which make up the non-woven fabric,

manufacturing the segregating membrane supporting material wherein polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers included in the non-woven fabric are dissoluble in

amide-based solvents or in sulfoxide-based solvents as a mutual solvent for forming the segregating membrane, and

laminating the segregating membrane supporting material with the segregating membrane including at least a choice of polysulfone based, polyvinylidene fluoride-based, polyamide-based, polyimide-based, or polyacrylonitrile-based high polymer materials.

- 53. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 10 weight % to 100 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 54. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 20 weight % to 70 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 55. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 30 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 56. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 40 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 57. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made by using polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers having a fiber size of diameter of 3.5 to 49.6 μm.

- 58. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made by using polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers having a fiber length of 1mm to 25mm.
- 59. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is thermo-compressed to give a permeability of 0.5 cm³/cm²/sec to 10 cm³/cm²/sec.
- 60. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material includes 20 weight % to 90 weight % binder fibers.
- 61. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein thickness of the segregating membrane supporting material made from thermo-compressed non-woven fabric is 50 μm to 150 μm.
- 62. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 52 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric which is transported through and sandwiched between two rollers for thermo-compression processing.
- 63. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 62 wherein one of the two rollers for thermo-compression processing is a heating roller to make the segregating membrane supporting material.
- 64. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 62 wherein thermo-compression processing is by two heating rollers to make the segregating membrane supporting material.
- 65. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 62 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-

woven fabric which is thermo-compressed by heating roller with a surface temperature of 200°C to 250°C.

- 66. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 62 wherein non-woven fabric is transported via heating roller at a speed of 20 m/min to 100 m/min.
- 67. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material in which a segregating membrane is laminated on a segregating membrane supporting material wherein fibers are assembled in three-dimensions to form non-woven fabric, and non-woven fabric is processed by thermo-compression to join together fibers, which make up the non-woven fabric in sheet form, making the segregating membrane supporting material,

the step comprising of:

processing by thermo-compression of the non-woven fabric including at least 10 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers and un-extended polyester binder fibers to make a segregating membrane supporting material with overall bulk density 40% to 75% of the density of the fibers which make up the non-woven fabric,

manufacturing the segregating membrane supporting material wherein polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers included in the non-woven fabric are dissoluble in amide-based solvents or in sulfoxide-based solvents as a mutual solvent for forming the segregating membrane, and

laminating the segregating membrane supporting material with the segregating membrane including at least a choice of polysulfone based, polyvinylidene fluoride-based, polyamide-based, polyimide-based, or polyacrylonitrile-based high polymer materials.

68. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 10 weight % to 100 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.

- 69. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 20 weight % to 70 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 70. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 30 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 71. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric, including 40 weight % to 60 weight % polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers, which is thermo-compressed.
- 72. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made by using polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers having a fiber size of diameter of 3.5 to 49.6 um.
- 73. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made by using polyacrylonitrile-based synthetic fibers having a fiber length of 1mm to 25mm.
- 74. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is thermo-compressed to give a permeability of 0.5 cm³/cm²/sec to 10 cm³/cm²/sec.
- 75. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material includes 20 weight % to 90 weight % binder fibers.

- 76. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein thickness of the segregating membrane supporting material made from thermo-compressed non-woven fabric is 50 µm to 150 µm.
- 77. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 67 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made form non-woven fabric which is transported through and sandwiched between two rollers for thermo-compression processing.
- 78. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 77 wherein one of the two rollers for thermo-compression processing is a heating roller to make the segregating membrane supporting material.
- 79. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 77 wherein thermo-compression processing is by two heating rollers to make the segregating membrane supporting material.
- 80. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 77 wherein the segregating membrane supporting material is made from non-woven fabric which is thermo-compressed by heating roller with a surface temperature of 200°C to 250°C.
- 81. (Withdrawn) A method of manufacturing a laminated material as recited in claim 77 wherein non-woven fabric is transported via heating roller at a speed of 20 m/min to 100 m/min.